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PEACE NEWS

The International Pacifist Weekly

No. 1,050 August 10, 1956 4d. (U.S. Air Express Edition: 10 cts.)

EISENHOWER AND BULGANIN GET "STOP H-TESTS" CALL

IN simultaneous appeals to President Eisenhower and Soviet Premier Bulganin, Charles R. Lawrence, Jr., National Chairman of the American Fellowship of Reconciliation, has called upon the United States and the USSR to abandon tests of H-bombs and other nuclear weapons.

The appeals, both dated August 1, were sent in anticipation of the eleventh anniversary of the A-bombing of Hiroshima on August 6, 1945. Dr. Lawrence, in a letter to the President, called upon the US Government to announce that, at the least, "it will abandon tests in the Pacific or anywhere else outside the continental United States."

Dr. Lawrence stated that "if nuclear weapons tests are to be held at all—a policy which we deplore, as we deplore war—then the simplest standards of humanity and moral decency require that they be held within our own boundaries." Pacific H-tests, said Dr. Lawrence, constitute "a very grave, possibly an almost fatal, political mistake," leading millions "to believe that America holds Asian lives very cheap."

The tests, he said, cause Communism "to seem attractive to these peoples in contrast to the Christianity which we profess."

In his cable to Bulganin, Dr. Lawrence pointed out that the USSR has been "spared the temptation to stage tests" outside its borders because there are "vast uninhabited spaces" inside the USSR. This, however, cannot be regarded as "proof of virtue or evidence of a desire for peace."

KENYA PRISON CAMPS Colonial Office replies to Eileen Fletcher

THE Colonial Office has made available to Members of Parliament its memorandum on allegations made in Peace News by Eileen Fletcher on conditions in prisons and detention camps in Kenya.

Most of the charges are examined in the memorandum in some detail. The official conclusion is that the examination "shows that a number were based on lack of knowledge and others on misconception."

Eileen Fletcher will be replying to the memorandum and a further article will appear in Peace News shortly.

Following a call by the Manchester Guardian on August 2 for a Parliamentary delegation to Kenya, Commander T. Fox-Pitt of the Anti Slavery Society and Freda Laski have urged that whether or not there is a judicial inquiry also to deal with those questions requiring qualified judicial examination.

KEIR HARDIE CENTENARY

VETERAN trade unionists, suffragettes and Members of Parliament are among those who have recorded their recollections of James Keir Hardie for a feature to be broadcast on the BBC Home Service on Wednesday, August 15, celebrating the centenary of the birth of the man who secured the trade union backing which founded the Labour Party.

Though many who pay tribute to him were utterly opposed to his ideals, the picture which emerges of him as a personality is one of generous admiration according to Broadcasting News.

Keir Hardie was born into poverty on August 16, 1856, at the Lanarkshire hamlet of Lath Beannock, which no longer exists. His mother worked in the fields and did embroidery on contract in the evenings.

As a lad of ten, Hardie was often the family bread winner, undergoing experiences which shaped his career in trade unionism and politics. He died in 1915.

The programme is compiled by Jameson Clark. Next week Peace News will observe the centenary of the birth of Keir Hardie with special contributions from Fenner Brockway, MP, and Emrys Hughes, MP.

Speaking at a banquet in his honour by the Prime Minister of Ireland, Mr. J. A. Costello, recently, Prime Minister Nehru expressed India's pleasure at Ireland's admission to the United Nations. He was confident Ireland would throw her weight in favour of peace.

SAY NO TO WAR OVER SUEZ

Britain and Egypt both provocative—MP's

THE British Government's reaction to the Suez crisis has been dubbed "high handed and provocative," by a large number of Members of Parliament.

The National Peace Council and many other individuals have expressed their opposition to military action by Britain and France, and a growing volume of protest against warlike policies is appearing in the Press. A protest meeting is to be held in London on Tuesday.

As Peace News went to press the signatures of Members of Parliament were still being added to the following statement, drafted on the initiative of Fenner Brockway and Sidney Silverman and supported by a number of pacifist MPs:

"While not condoning the high handed behaviour and provocative language of Col. Nasser, or minimising the vital importance of free passage of shipping through the Suez Canal we are disturbed lest it should be thought that high handed behaviour and provocative action on the part of the British Government commands universal support."

THE ONLY ISSUE

"Great Britain, France and the United States have invited 24 Nations to attend a Conference on August 16 next to consider questions concerning the Suez Canal following upon the nationalisation of the Suez Canal Company."

"The nationalisation of the Suez Canal Company concerns Egypt alone. The only issue which is of international importance is the continued uninterrupted passage of the Suez Canal in accordance with the 1888 Convention."

"It is understood that the inviting Powers will present to the International Conference a plan for the internationalisation of the Canal. No one doubts that if such a plan were agreed and accepted by all the Powers concerned that would be a satisfactory solution. But Great Britain and France have made it clear by action as well as by speech that with or without the consent of all interested Powers they are prepared to put their plan or some modification of it into operation, by force."

"Unless recalled Parliament will not be sitting when the Conference meets. There has been no meeting of the Parliamentary Labour Party or the National Executive to consider this matter which may be fraught with the gravest consequences for this country and for the peace of the world."

"Without seeking to arrogate to ourselves any right to formulate Party policy we wish to declare quite firmly for ourselves, in the belief that our view would be shared by the over-

whelming majority of all sections of the Labour Movement, that:

1. "International control of all international waterways including Suez would be an important contribution to world peace."

2. "To attempt to carry out such internationalisation of the Suez Canal by force, against the resistance of the Egyptian Government and people, would be an act of aggression under the United Nations Charter."

3. "Such action would inflame the Arab nations against us, would have the gravest repercussions in Asia and Africa, and might well be fatal to the peace of the world."

4. "In any circumstances to which the Charter of the United Nations applies we are not prepared to support this or any British Government in the use of force not sanctioned by the Security Council in accordance with the Charter."

A statement issued by the National Peace Council "welcomes the decision of the British,

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SUEZ COMMENTARY

By Roy Sherwood

THE Suez Canal crisis puts those who work for peace in front of the kind of immediate problem that always crops up in the form of questions by interested enquirers: What would the pacifist do, with force ruled out by his own choice, that does not amount to plain surrender, irrespective of right or wrong?

The question itself is not altogether fair. The principles for which pacifism stands are forward-looking—preventive, not surgical.

They are not a miracle cure for ills brought on by power politics.

● If the Versailles Treaty had not been a power-enforcement document, Hitler would have had little chance of inflaming the Germans into following him;

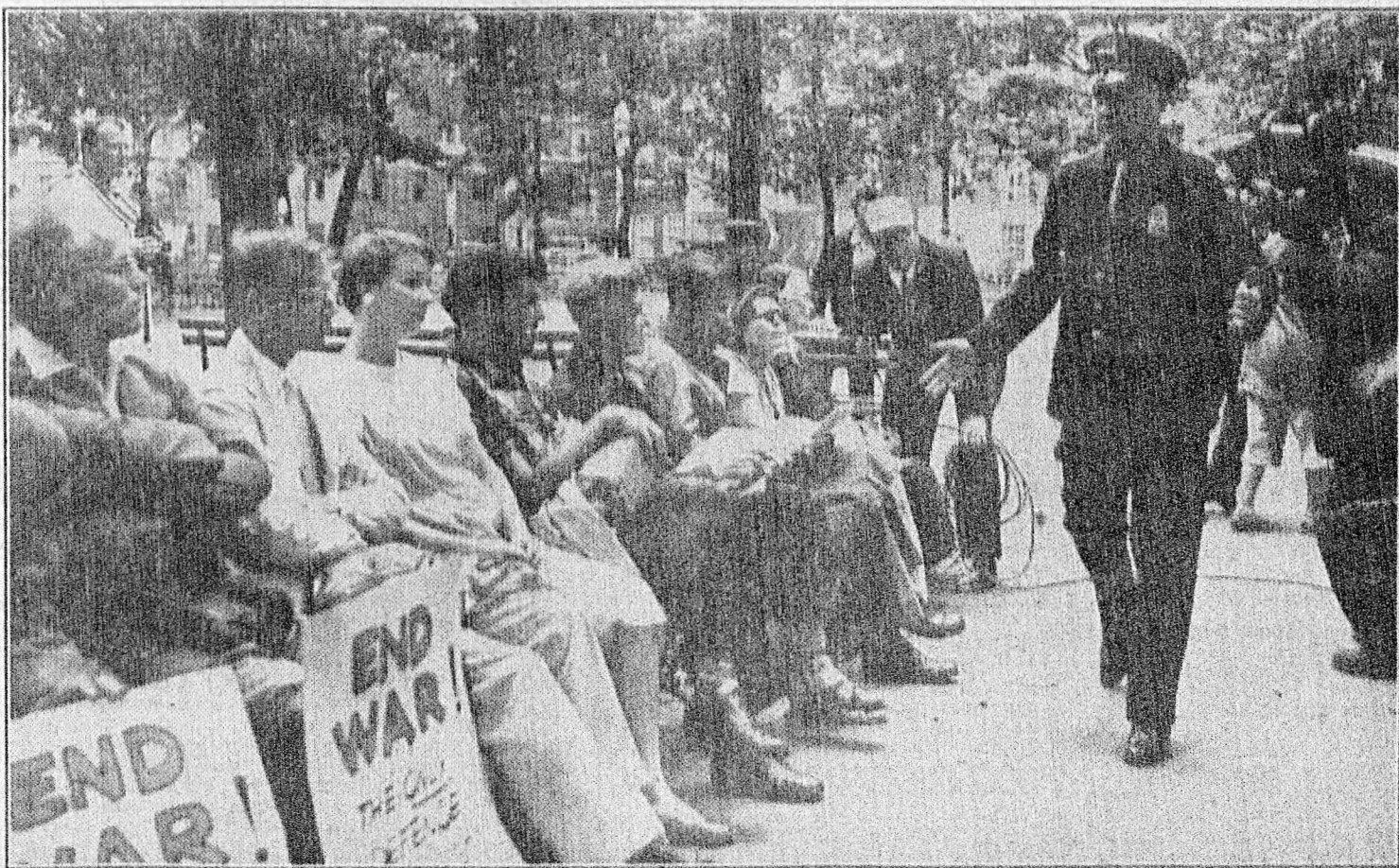
● If people long held in subjugation by European powers had been granted independence and economic justice when they began to show their discontent with colonialism, there would not now be the double danger of an Arab front against Europe and of an Eastern front against the whole West;

● If America and Britain had not enraged President Nasser by their sudden withdrawal of support for the Aswan Dam, he would not have felt that, to hold his own position, he had to hit back;

● If France were not visibly exhausting herself by holding out against the Algerians' determination to be free, and if Britain were fully secure in a base held on better terms than Cyprus, he would hardly have risked his overnight Canal nationalisation; and if

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ARRESTED—ON TV



New York pacifist demonstrators against the US Civil Defence drill on July 20 are seen in Washington Square shortly before being arrested, as reported in PN last week.

Dorothy Day is seen at far right of the seated group being interviewed for a television broadcast.

Photo: The New York Times

August 10th, 1956

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**PEACE
NEWS**

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MEN DO NOT WISH TO BE SOLDIERS

THE British Government will not after all face the next election having brought conscription to an end, and from the debate on National Service last week it is evident that, whatever the Labour Party may put before the electors on that subject, there is no firm intention on their part to get rid of conscription.

The motion moved by Mr. C. A. Brown, on behalf of the Labour Party, called for the preparation of a four-year plan for the ending of National Service and its submission to the Council of NATO, the decision on the matter to be taken only after the matter had been discussed on that body.

When Mr. Shinwell spoke in the debate he made the proposition sound a good deal more tentative even than this. Let the plan be produced, he said, and then it can be debated. "I do not say . . . that we can abolish the call-up in 1958, because we do not know."

He felt that Britain should look for more military assistance from the Commonwealth countries, and that money could be saved for the financing of a more highly-paid voluntary army by leaving the production of the more expensive weapons to America.

THE analysis made by Mr. I. MacLeod for the Government made it very evident that without compulsory military service it would be impossible to pursue the kind of foreign policy upon which the Government and the Labour "Opposition" are agreed.

He had been anticipated in a similar analysis a week before by Colonel Wigg from the Labour benches. He had also demonstrated that without conscription the men that were needed for the implementation of the bi-partisan foreign policy would not be there.

There had twice been improvements in payments and conditions, and still there would not be a sufficiency of men in the armed services if they were not forced in.

While there was full employment and it was possible to obtain good wages in industry, men were not disposed to enlist for military service.

The only practicable method of implementing the common policy was to bring lads into the forces under compulsion.

WHAT is never discussed in these debates is the question why, given a situation in which they can find a tolerable alternative, men are not ready to give voluntarily the service to their country that their elected representatives hold to be necessary.

The question surely arises whether, if men are not ready to serve the policies for which they are needed, they can in any real sense be held to be in favour of those policies.

They are not able to express themselves on the matter at elections because they are never offered an alternative, and the fact that they return Conservative and Labour representatives on the basis of the policy that these are jointly pursuing clearly does not mean that they feel any vital enthusiasm for that policy when they see it working out in detail.

THEY do not feel inspired to sacrifice and effort when they are called upon to suppress Cypriot aspirations to national independence despite the fact that they are told that independence for Cyprus is not compatible with security for British oil supplies.

They are not moved to enlistment by the idea that they may at some time be called upon to take similar action at Aden. Then, too, despite the uniform indignation they find in their newspapers at the action of Colonel Nasser in regard to the Suez, they are not burning to enrol to engage in the killing of Egyptians.

The fact is that, however their superficial emotions may run in regard to the endeavour to maintain the myth that in present-day conditions Britain can remain a "Great Power", men are not prepared to devote their lives to the bolstering up of that myth.

What is called for today is not a four-year plan to solve the impossible problem of getting rid of conscription while maintaining in its essentials the present British foreign policy.

IT is a fundamental re-examination of the assumptions upon which that policy is based that is necessary.

We believe that such a re-examination would lead inevitably to the conclusion that the right way for Britain's fifty million people to make their contribution in world affairs is through the medium of the United Nations; that they should abandon their futile, tragic and destructive efforts to keep intact their "Great Power" outposts and strongpoints in various parts of the world; and that they should no longer stultify their true possibilities for influence and for good in the world by their entanglement in NATO and other such power bloc combinations.

From the Editor's Notebook

Manchester youth

YOUNG members of the Manchester Fellowship of Reconciliation have banded together to form a youth action group under the able leadership of Harold Quite and John Verney.

"For some months now," Roy Wolstenholme of 19 Long Hay, Hale, Cheshire, tells me, "we have all been deeply disturbed concerning what has seemed the gentle and inert attitude of the Fellowship in Manchester and so, in ourselves, we demand a new faith to grasp the many opportunities for witness and service that confront young people."

"Our programme will include active work for the aged, underprivileged children, prison visiting, etc."

"We hope to hold an area conference in January next year."

What Manchester does today . . .

But why call on Peace News?

SIX hundred people contributed the money to pay the fare to Europe of Erna Harris, 48-year-old delegate to the Women's International League Triennial Conference held in Birmingham last month.

A Berkeley, California, member of the War Resisters' League, and an active peace-worker in the USA, she made a call at Peace News office and Housmans' bookshop top priority after the conference ended.

Her hosts in England were sur-

prised at this. "Do you know anyone at Peace News," they asked. "No," she said, but she felt that she must meet the people there, for the paper and the bookshop meant so much to her and many other American peace-workers.

Explaining all this to me as she sat in my office, she continued:

"There are so many things we should not see or hear about if it were not for Housmans. There is no organisation in the USA that brings together the literature of so many peace organisations."

She was enthusiastic about the work being done by the voluntary workers at the American Peace News office in Cambridge, Massachusetts, some 3,000 miles from her home in the Far West. Their distribution of the Air Express edition now meant that she obtained her Peace News much earlier.

Japanese-Americans remembered

MANY of the 600 who raised the money for Erna Harris's trip were Japanese-Americans. They remembered with gratitude the way in which this energetic, smiling little Negress defended them during World War II, when every American citizen of Japanese birth was suspect.

Others who helped were church groups who had heard Erna speak on peace issues; a tea meeting raised 130 dollars towards the fare.

Money was added by some friends so that she could spend a few weeks

touring Europe after the Congress, others undertook to keep up the hire-purchase payments on a duplicating machine, the basis of a one-woman duplicating business which she runs.

A tour of Europe, beyond her wildest dreams a year ago, is now a well-deserved reality for this lively little lady from the Far West. May she enjoy the Edinburgh Music Festival and the gaiety of Salzburg and Vienna to the full.

Isabel Atkinson

NORTHAMPTON pacifists have lost a very wise and active worker by the death of Isabel Atkinson, former secretary of the Peace Pledge Union Group.

Together with Annie and William Harrison, Stanley Seamark tells me, she made the Health Food Stores in the town "a place of loving influence, where many found continuing strength in their struggle for peace."

The vapour streak

I'M told that it costs more than £2,000 to fuel, service and put one bomber in the air for a four-hour long training flight.

Next time you spot a thin vapour streak marring a patch of blue sky you can remind yourself that it represents the annual salary of four or five of those school-teachers who are in such short supply.



IN PERSPECTIVE

WE hope that there will be an enquiry of some kind about the changes that have been made concerning the Chief Justice of the Seychelles which were ventilated in Parliament by Mr. E. G. M. Fletcher. The Government is apparently prepared to accept the judgment of the Governor, Sir William Addis, in the matter, but it is his direction of affairs that is also in question.

Mr. Francis Noel-Baker is to visit the islands during the Parliamentary recess, clearly in the hope of being able to make contact with Archbishop Makarios. Although the Government is not willing to permit this we hope that nevertheless he or other MPs will be able to make some enquiries on the spot.

There is incongruity in the circumstance that the Government is refusing official investigation here in a matter in which it is clearly concerned, while insisting upon undertaking one in Nigeria, where the full implementation of Nigerian self-government requires that the Nigerians should deal with the matter at issue in their own way.

What is revealed in regard to the basic conditions in the Seychelles is in fact a greater indictment of a whole succession of British Governments—Conservative and Labour—than the troubles indicated in the complaints about the Chief Justice. Mr. Fletcher remarked that most of the 36,000 population are illiterate. The British have been in possession of the islands since 1810. Generation after generation has passed, and still most of the people cannot read and write. In the Seychelles, and in the other colonial territories where no real attempt has been made to end illiteracy it is impossible to claim that there has been any sincere effort to prepare the people for self-government.

The battle of the rope

THE battle of the rope is not yet over. In accordance with its tradition the House of Lords refused a second reading to Mr. Silverman's private member's Bill which would have removed the death penalty for murder from our laws.

The Bill was passed by the Commons after a Government proposal for a compromise modification of the law of murder had been defeated.

The Government had undertaken to respect the free vote of the House and did so to the extent of allowing time, and free votes, for every stage of the Bill—but at each point the Home Secretary spoke against the measure and now the Government is frankly refusing to stand up against the Lords on this issue.

The Lords in their embattled might were not so reactionary as they were in 1948 when they refused to accept from the House of Commons a clause in the Criminal Justice Bill which would have suspended the use of the death penalty.

On that occasion 25 of them supported abolition, the Judges were reported to be unanimous (but this

had later to be corrected) the Bishops were divided and the Archbishop of Canterbury called for compromise.

This time 95 members of the House of Lords supported abolition, only one Bishop voted against, and Judges were no longer even reported to be unanimous, and the Archbishop, though voting for the second

The Seychelles Hanging Disarmament Security

reading, again called for compromise.

As Lord Goddard also said the law of murder needed amending, the Government cannot stand still but seem likely now once again to try to find a half way house to abolition.

Hanging in air

IF this is proposed to the Commons with a free vote it will probably be thrown out in favour of abolition, but the tragedy of the situation is that, although party lines cross on this matter, the debates are still bedevilled by the game of politics.

The Government may put on the whips to get their compromise and silence the brave young Tories who have faced much criticism in their own party for daring to maintain their convictions through the lobbies.

(The party unity has to be maintained somehow: the Conservative Party ladies howled down a courageous woman MP who not only voted for abolition but went to the Party Conference to say why.)

Anyhow the Government now promises a statement of its intention before the end of the session. In the meantime we hope that reprieves will continue, for the longer this goes on the more difficult will it be to justify a return to a policy of hanging.

History maintained

INCIDENTALLY the Hansard report of the House of Lords debate on the Bill has one line of significance. The debate lasted two days but this line appears on the opening page of the second day's report.

It says, simply, "Several Peers took the oath." This means that a number of Peers had not been to the House since the last general election (at least) after which every Peer has to take the oath again in his first attendance at the House.

These rulers of our land who are spoken of as the true voice of public opinion had not been concerned to attend the House for debates on foreign policy, home affairs, nuclear power and the numerous problems of the day; but they rolled up to vote on the death penalty.

What is more they rolled up only on the second day of the debate, in time to vote: they did not even have courtesy to come on the first day and hear the debate.

Thus do the Lords maintain their history for always having opposed advances in the penal field.

In the last century they opposed every move to get rid of the death penalty for even the most trivial offences, they opposed the abolition of the pillory, they opposed the first efforts to introduce probation.

In this century they opposed the establishment of an appeal court, they opposed the removal of flogging and the abolition of the death penalty.

Proposal for reduction

IN the Foreign Policy debate in the Commons last week two points were particularly noteworthy: the careful omission of an announcement that might have been expected on the subject of the reduction of armed forces; and a pronouncement that seems to suggest that the Government has now changed its view on the question of H-bomb tests.

There has been acceptance by Russia since the last debate on foreign policy of proposals for an agreed reduction of forces that were sponsored by the British Government, the rejection of these proposals by the US Government, the submission of new proposals by the USA which will place the number of Russian men under arms at a million more than the Russian Government is prepared to agree to, and then the acceptance of these modified proposals by Russia.

One would have thought that in opening a discussion of foreign

policy the Government would have given these events an important place.

Instead of this there was no reference to the matter by the Prime Minister, and the question having been raised by Mr. Gaiskell for the Opposition, when the Foreign Secretary, Mr. Selwyn Lloyd, came to reply what he had to say was "We must not be fobbed off by this interim plan from the pursuit of the ultimate objective of a comprehensive disarmament agreement."

"If you want to prevent a future war you have to create on the soil of all significant States some form of international supervision and control of armaments."

This attitude seems to contain the sinister suggestion that the Government does not want to commit itself even on this modified proposal now known whether the US Government is prepared to stand by its own figures. Or does it know already that the US government wants to drop them?

Russell Johnson's call for plan

IN view of the obvious discomfort that has been caused in political and business circles in the USA by the repeated acceptance by Russia of maximum figures for armed forces which had reason to assume had been given American endorsement, only to find the spokesmen of the US beginning to hedge, it is useful to recall that Russell Johnson, of the American Friends Service Committee (Quakers), made proposals before the US Senate Sub-Committee on Disarmament last April for the establishment of a "non-partisan commission to undertake immediately a national plan for the reallocation of American economic life when disarmament becomes a reality."

Before the Committee he said, "When peace scares can cause a slump in the stockmarket it is evident that the American people are unprepared to accept the economic consequences of disarmament."

"It is my hope that the establishment of the commission to make a national plan for the peaceful operation of the economic economy would prepare us as we are in no way prepared now to accept disarmament cheerfully and work for it wholeheartedly."

"Until we take responsible measures," he remarked, "to convince the 'uncommitted' nations as well as our allies, who are increasingly restive about the predominance of military nature of our alliances with them, that we really are prepared to use our great industrial machine for peace-time production and for assistance to other peoples along these lines, the Communist charge of insincerity as to our disarmament efforts will carry weight."

The Lang case

IN the course of the proceedings that resulted in the dismissal of Mr. J. H. A. Lang by Imperial Chemical Industries, Mr. Lang was interviewed and afterwards wrote to say that he had received a fair hearing.

This expression of appreciation of the manner in which his case had been dealt with—although it had not resulted in his dismissal—was not only accepted but was given publicity.

It was not until afterwards that Mr. Lang discovered that important parts of the information upon which the Government representations to the ICI were made had been kept from him.

He was not merely not to know who was his accuser—that is common form in McCarthyite practice—but the facade of candour and impartiality that had been presented to him concealed a disreputable intention to condemn him unheard.

There was not only the "faceless informer"; there was also the hidden information—true or false.

Silent three

NOT much has been heard of the "Three Advisers" who assist the Government in such matters as the cases they were reported as having handled in the first year or so after their appointment.

It is unpleasantly ironic that there should be indications that they are to have more work to do at a time when McCarthy is discredited in the USA and there is a growing concern about the dangers of the procedures with which he was associated.

We greatly welcome therefore the launching of the "campaign for the limitation of secret police powers" and are glad to observe the strength of the Committee which is sponsoring it.

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Prisoners for Peace Day

"We hereby declare December First, 1956, to be Prisoners for Peace Day in honour of all those known and unknown who are in prison as a result of their refusal to participate in the armed forces of their countries."

With an awareness of the debt owed imprisoned war resisters by the world pacifist movement, the War Resisters' International Council, at its recent meeting in London, passed the above proclamation.

December first was selected as an appropriate date for the addressing, signing and printing of Christmas greetings—in the consciousness that hundreds, perhaps thousands of like-minded persons throughout the world were, on this day, expressing their appreciation of these courageous pioneers of our cause.

"Prisoners for Peace Day will be an international expression of our solidarity," declared A. Tatum, newly appointed General Secretary of the WRI.

A thousand greetings

"I earnestly hope that not only each of our 31 Sections, but all organisations dedicated to peace or civil liberties will undertake special projects to observe the day. We want each imprisoned war resister to receive at least a thousand greetings from all over the world."

"Let us hope there will be poster parades, letters to editors, press releases, demonstrations, delegations to Embassies, and official protests to heads of governments as well."

A few English pacifists have already made plans to observe the day by fasting. Since the unjust jailing of fellow pacifists is a common concern, each organisation and individual should co-operate in some way.

If there is sufficient response to holding the WRI 1960 Triennial Conference in India—an idea also endorsed by Council—a special India Fund will be created after the Council's next meeting in December.

But for now, the WRI urges individuals and groups to lay plans to participate in the worldwide Prisoners for Peace Day, Dec. 1, 1956.

PACIFISM CONSIDERED

In a recent weekend course on Pacifism at the Christian Adult Education Centre in Moor Park, the Reverend Charles Willis, a Chaplain to the Forces, stated the case for the Christian non-pacifist in two lectures.

In the first he claimed that the Bible and history showed that God used nations as instruments of His wrath and judgment on sin.

In the second lecture he said that war was not the worst evil, nor killing the greatest offence which could be committed. It might be necessary for a nation to go to war to prevent the greater evil of wholesale corruption.

Canon Scrutton, in putting the case for the Christian pacifist, claimed by reference to reports and encyclicals issued in connection with four Lambeth Conferences, that in refusing to take part in war pacifists were being loyal to the official statements of the Church of England and to the Gospels.

One of the discussion groups on the Christian answer to the problem of Cyprus was led by Stuart Morris, who also intervened effectively in the main discussions.

Reginald Sorensen spoke on personal pacifism and national responsibility, and Eric Baker on common grounds in working for peace.



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THE LOST CHANCE OF 1902

A new attitude to Cyprus needed

By GORDON WARAKER

"If you would govern a nation do it, as you would cook a small fish, gently." It is the wisdom from Lao-tze that it seems Britain should learn all over again in her relations with another ancient island—Cyprus.

The regrettable imprudence in our colonial policy of the last decade can rarely have reached a point of such stupidity as is now seen in the administration of the affairs of the Island.

The tragic and unnecessary bloodshed of Cypriot and British youths alike, the suffering of all the whole Cypriot population, the whole attitude of those in Britain responsible for the present situation must give all thinking people grave concern about the quality of British statesmanship today.

responsible

In the case of this beautiful island and its friendly peoples, the tactless incompetence of Britain has gone on for half a century. It is responsible for the present crisis, as also for a previous crisis in the thirties when the orthodox Archbishop was similarly mis-treated.

The truth is that Britain never had a policy worth the name; she never understood the people and was not interested in them except in that their island home was strategically necessary to her.

But from outside the Colonial Office and Government circles, helpful suggestions have from time to time been made.

Amongst the most important of these alternatives was the guidance of Sir Patrick Geddes, who, as far back as 1902, recommended a wholly different approach to that of successive British Governments.

He pointed out that here is an admixture of types of people, descended from nomad shepherds, fisherfolk from Turkey and the Palestinian shores, emigres from Armenia, Egypt and elsewhere, and a few monks living in quiet solitude—in short a pastoral and peasant people.

To send to these simple peace-loving Eastern folk, diplomats, administrators and soldiers for their "government" was the height of folly and futility. "Planting, not politics" is what they needed, he declared.

It was not only that they also required education: but a very special type of education in accordance with their way of life, beliefs and regional environment.

They needed a new type of civic and cultural centre, which, gathering up their past history, traditions, skills and customs, could eventually become a university, creating new links with Eastern peoples all around.

In addition to this imaginative conception for raising the cultural level of an entire people he declared the exceptionally favourable climate and ecology to be such that the island of Cyprus was ideally situated for the establishment of an agricultural college, where every type of research and experiment could be carried out in fruit growing and the cultivation of produce and raw materials, including cotton.

PATRICK DUNCAN ON S. AFRICA

From Olwen Battersby

PATRICK DUNCAN, the first white man to take his stand beside the passive resisters in South Africa and the son of the first South African born Governor-General, addressed a Peace News meeting, in London last month, on "South Africa and the Protectorates."

"Things are going on in South Africa more horrible than anything known since the days of Hitler," he stated.

The danger of widespread violence could not be discounted, and violence, if it did come, would mean that the white people, well armed, fully indoctrinated, and with efficient coastal control, would win hands down.

"But it is not enough to criticise," he continued. "You must put a primus stove under the chair of your Secretary of State, and light it."

SERETSE'S BANISHMENT

For Great Britain had power. By the introduction of a hydro-electric plant and other constructive projects she could develop the vast potential wealth of the Protectorates—Basutoland, Swaziland and Bechuanaland—in such a way as to make the white and African peoples of South Africa sit up and take notice.

By insisting that there should be no colour bar, by giving political rights to the Africans living in these territories, and by granting them a decent wage, Britain could force the South African Government to yield to the pressure of public opinion.

In answer to a question he stated that the African remained in South Africa and suffered persecution and indignity because of the comparatively high standard of living. The African in Basutoland from poor, badly irrigated land might make £30 a year; his brother in South Africa could earn £150 a year.

South Africa needed Great Britain more than Great Britain needed South Africa, he affirmed. Hence the fact that South African foreign policy under Mr. Strydom has been liberalised, in spite of the tightening of internal policy.

The banishment of Seretse Khama from Bechuanaland had been done for one reason only: to maintain a good relationship with Dr. Mahan.

If the British Colonial Secretary, however, could be made to feel that he was "between two heats," then British South African policy might be guided by something other than a desire to keep South Africa within the Commonwealth.

tion of produce and raw materials, including cotton.

To such a college students would come and go carrying their new agricultural knowledge to their own countries, where it was so much needed.

With such a goal in view Geddes not only advised the Cypriots on afforestation, the cultivation of their olive groves and mulberry trees, incidentally finding that the silk worms also liked the climate, but, with the aid of a generous independent benefactor from home, he founded a first colony as an experiment, winning the hearts and support of some local people to sustain it.

Independent of his general sociological findings he pursued his scientific research and, after a three months' survey of the island's terrain, declared that the underflow of waters was of a nature most suited as an experimental centre of hydro-geology and as a place of research and study in this little known field, one of maximum importance to all desert peoples.

genuine

Geddes considered that at small expense a centre could be established where new and simple methods of "water-mining" could be developed which would save much time and expense in experimentation elsewhere; students would come from Egypt, Arabia, even India and Australia, carrying back their science to their own lands.

Unfortunately none of these proposals ever received official consideration.

If Britain had done something of real vision and practical help for Cyprus and its people she would now have good and loyal friends who would have a much higher regard for her.

Those now responsible, or supposedly so, should therefore learn from the past irresponsibility of their predecessors and their errors of "administration."

Britain should at least refrain from provocative acts such as the silly power-politics of using the Turkish minority as pawns to bolster up their own bankruptcy of policy.

Even a face-saving policy is very difficult though a change of government would be helpful to facilitate this.

Without a genuine understanding of and concern for the cultural and economic needs of the islanders and a new respect for their civic integrity, and their religious life, no third way out of the present impasse is possible so as to make a beginning to a new and happier order.

MILITARY HONOURS

WHEN one conscientious objector went to visit another CO in a French jail, he was received with military honours.

He was Pierre Martin, a pre-war objector, who is a delegate in Tunis of the Abbe Pierre.

His visit to Rene Tchouhassoff in a Tunis military prison was arranged by a woman lawyer, Madame Hanon, who was working on Tchouhassoff's case.

A correspondent from France writes, "It is not without humour, is it? Pierre passing between the ranks of soldiers presenting arms to salute the delegate of Abbe Pierre."

Abbe Pierre, an ex-soldier and member of the French resistance movement, has done great work among and for the poor and homeless of France.

After the war, he drew to him people who helped to change disused railway coaches and empty prisoner-of-war huts into homes for the countless homeless.

This is one of several interesting news reports appearing in the current issue of The War Resister.

MICHAEL TIPPETT'S APPEAL

MICHAEL TIPPETT has sent the following appeal to members of the Peace Pledge Union. We are grateful for this support and for the help which is forthcoming from members and officers of many other organisations. We ask every reader to join in this great effort to keep Peace News solvent in 1956. THE EDITOR.

Dear Fellow-Member,

I write to you because PEACE NEWS is now in grave financial danger.

Not solely because it is a paper advocating pacifism in a country pledged to spend astronomical sums on manufacturing and testing H-bombs, but more immediately because this very policy of diverting to such national labour, time and materials to unproductive military expenditure rather than to desperately needed civil capitalisation, has been the chief factor in inflation.

Inflation is hitting you as it is hitting me, as it is hitting (and very hard) the devoted people who carry on Peace News in our name.

But inflation is hitting our newspaper also, through ever-rising costs, and hitting it so hard that it is now running at a loss of £100 a week.

Of course it wouldn't contrive to appear at all if it were not for the extraordinary financial support it gets already from direct donations and from the profit on Ennsleigh Christmas Cards. But it needs much more.

It needs, most of all, more regular orders.

I am asking you, therefore, to order the paper at once for yourself, if you do not already do so.

But I ask also that all of us who are already readers should consider very seriously if we can somehow manage to order one or two extra copies each week from our newsagent, or distributor, or from PEACE NEWS' office. Because, if we all do so, we IMMEDIATELY rescue our paper from financial disaster.

More than that: these extra copies are for selling to our friends, giving away, leaving in trains and buses; they are the good seed that once every so often falls on good ground. Because PN is undoubtedly the most important way in which we not only RECEIVE news of pacifism from all over the world, but in which we GIVE news and arguments for pacifism to the world around us.

★

PEACE NEWS is becoming more and more a real paper with a real influence. The Eileen Fletcher issues proved that beyond doubt.

So it HAS to be rescued from its involuntary danger; and that is why I write to you.

Perhaps you have not realised how much PEACE NEWS needs active workers, and how these workers are generally PPU members like ourselves.

Cannot you become one too? Please read the suggestions... from the last PN Annual Report and consider whether you can act on some of them.

But supposing you can't really leave extra PN copies in trains, and supposing you can't be active in any of the ways suggested, can you not make some truly generous (generous for YOU, that is) donation that can go towards meeting the deficit already incurred, and to provide a reasonable reserve to lift the constant anxiety from PN Directors and staff?

By sending a generous contribution to the PEACE NEWS' Fund, you will guarantee the future of the only newspaper offering a future to the world.

But please act at once.

And please send a response that will overwhelm PN Directors as Dick Sheppard's first appeal for war resisters overwhelmed his friends.

Yours sincerely,

MICHAEL TIPPETT,
Chairman.

N.B. Make a point of sending your reply to PEACE NEWS' office, at 3 Blackstock Road, London, N.4.

Gratefully acknowledged: "Anxious," Maldon, 10s.; Belfast, 16; PPU member, 2s. 6d.; A Friend, 10s.

Contributions since July 27: £274 6s. 11d. Total since January 1, 1956: £1,500 8s. 6d.

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GERMAN LAW CHALLENGED

DR. MARTIN LOFFLER, a Stuttgart lawyer, has lodged a complaint that the new German conscription law is contrary to the preamble of the basic law—the constitution of the Federal Republic—and to five of its articles.

The complaint has been lodged on behalf of six clients of conscription age to the Federal Constitutional Court at Karlsruhe.

The conscription law, it is alleged, could bring the danger of civil war against the inhabitants of East Germany, and so contradict the first article of the constitution defining the inviolable dignity of man.

The constitution laid down that "no one may be compelled against his conscience to serve in war as a combatant." The complainants declare that by the conscription law this is transgressed, as it limits the right of conscientious objection to what they call "a group of radical, convinced pacifists."

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Cyprus

BEING in Athens for some time, I only now have come across your report (Peace News, June 29) of the speech I made at Loughborough some time ago.

You write that during that speech I deprecated violence and that I condemned the use of violence as well as those who provoked the use of violence, namely, in the case of Cyprus, the British Government.

What in fact I said was that "I regret that the Cypriots were forced to resort to violence but if we have to condemn somebody we must condemn those who provoked, with their behaviour and policy, the use of violence."

When I was asked at that meeting what I thought of the so-called "terrorists" when they kill I replied: "Sir Winston Churchill in the first volume of his book *THE HISTORY OF THE BRITISH-PEOPLES* says that 'it is the primary right of men to die and kill for the land they live in and to punish with exceptional severity those . . . compatriots who have warmed their hands at the invader's hearth.'"

I thought I need add no more.

SPYROS A. KYPRIANOU,
U.K. Hon. Secretary to the
Edunarchy of Cyprus.

London, W.1.

Challenge to pacifists

I HAVE read with much interest the letters in "Peace News" on the subject: "Challenge to Pacifists", and notice that the writers have in common the opinion that we, as pacifists, must show the public in a practical way that non-violence really works. Whilst I appreciate the desirability of proving that this is so, I do not consider that it should be necessary to convince practising Christians of the workability of non-violence, so that they join our ranks. Surely the teachings of Our Lord should be sufficient to bring them to pacifism, regardless of the consequences?

We should, therefore, I believe, concentrate more on putting Christ's teachings before these people in our endeavour to bring them to pacifism, and then, as quite a secondary aim, show the effectiveness of non-violence.

REGINALD C. STATT.

"Eight Points", Langley Avenue,
St. Saviour, Jersey, Channel Islands.

Pacifism and the police

I FIND Sybil Morrison (Pacifism and the Police, July 13) weak and unconvincing. It is time that pacifists realised that those of their opponents who raise the objection concerning pacifists who support a police force have "got something."

"It is never the business of the policeman to punish." The policeman does not directly

punish a criminal, but he is part of the punitive machinery of law, nevertheless.

The law, in turn, is a part of that complex of coercive institutions which constitute the State and should the civil forces at the disposal of the law fail, then the military forces are used. Violence is still the final sanction of the State.

How can one "distinguish clearly between military action and police action"? Should pacifists support the police when they club hunger-marchers, arrest "deserters," round up people for internment, serve warrants on conscientious objectors?

Is it within the scope of the non-violent approach to support the "police action" that was carried out in Palestine, and is carried out in Cyprus and in Russia? What is the fundamental difference between being hit over the head with a truncheon and being hit with the butt-end of a rifle?

Miss Morrison argues that the policeman has "the community . . . on his side." This has nothing to do with whether or not a pacifist can support a police force. The "community" supports many things which a pacifist cannot.

If one's pacifism is confined to the rejection of war as "an instrument of national policy" then presumably it does not involve rejecting the use of a police force.

If one's pacifism means the acceptance of the principle of non-violence, as mine does, then I do not see how one can accept the validity of an institution such as the police which uses violence—however much that violence may be restricted to certain individuals or supported by the "community."

The confused thinking that Miss Morrison displays on this subject is aptly illustrated by her statement that police action is "restraint upon the guilty after guilt has been established." She seems to be engaged in an act of pre-judgment here. Is one to understand that she rejects that proudly boasted axiom of the "process of justice" she apparently supports that "a man is innocent until proved guilty?"

This would seem to follow from her argument that if the police restrain a man he is therefore "guilty."

S. E. PARKER.

12 Park Drive,
London, N.W.11.

SYBIL MORRISON writes: In his desire to make clear his own objection to State and Law, Mr. S. E. Parker seems to have entirely overlooked what my article was about! I was pointing out to those who insist on equating the police force with so-called "defence" in war, that it cannot be so equated. I think my argument on that score is perfectly logical.

It does not necessarily mean that I support the police force, though I am not, as Mr. Parker appears to be, a convinced anarchist.

He is himself arguing in exactly the same way as non-pacifists when he refers to the "police action" in Russia, Palestine and Cyprus. That is what those who justify war like to call it, but it is in fact military action, which attacks the innocent and guilty alike and relies, not upon any kind of justice, but upon force as the final arbiter.

By "restraint upon the guilty after guilt has been established" I naturally meant the subsequent probation or imprisonment following upon conviction of guilt before a court of law.

How Britain could disarm

I AM sorry that James Read considers that the attention which a number of pacifists are giving to unilateral disarmament is the "dreaming of a frustrated minority group."

The list of names of the Working Party published in Peace News would indicate that they are not mystics or dreamers but a cross-section of pacifists who have their feet firmly on the ground.

Vital indeed as one may consider James Read's plea that "moral power lies in the depth of the change of heart of individuals," that need not exclude a practical pacifist con-

tribution to modern thought on modern problems.

It isn't "playing at Prime Ministers" to express an opinion that the only way in which this country can make a serious effort to deal with the crying needs of the under-developed countries is via a drastic reduction in arms expenditure—which is unilateral disarmament.

Surely it is the pacifist ideal to "turn swords into ploughshares" and I should not have thought it was making the movement "a laughing stock" to ask whether that was moonshine or whether it was possible in the contemporary world.

People in this God's world of ours are beginning to realise that massive armaments are not producing results and they are looking for alternatives.

As James Read points out, a Tory Government will probably end conscription (which would be unilateral disarmament) because we cannot afford it, long before pacifists can achieve the change of heart which is so desirable. Mr. Macmillan is obviously casting long eyes on saving £700 million of the money we are spending on armaments, in order to save the world's economy. That also would involve unilateral disarmament.

The Working Party is having the valuable help of non-pacifist MPs in thinking about the consequences of unilateral disarmament. These men do not give their time to "dreamers."

Non-pacifists are coming to see that one only becomes a "laughing-stock" when one continues to spend the national resources on armaments which in the contemporary situation have become obsolete and useless junk.

The work of the Working Party is difficult enough. We should avoid hasty conclusions that their efforts will be valueless.

WALLACE HANCOCK.

8 Barclay Oval, Woodford Wells.

The cost in lives

WHAT were the total casualties in the last World War, both combatant and civilian?

LAURIE SUTTON.

112 Repton Rd., Orpington, Kent.

The following statistics of deaths in the principal countries in World War II are given in the Official Bulletin of the German Federal Government, published at Bonn:

USSR, 13,600,000 soldiers and a large number of civilians; CHINA, 2,000,000 soldiers, 6,000,000 civilians; POLAND, 6,000,000 (of whom 300,000 were killed in battle); JAPAN, 2,500,000 soldiers, 600,000 civilians; FRANCE, 200,000 soldiers, 400,000 civilians; GREECE, 150,000 soldiers, 350,000 civilians; BRITISH EMPIRE, 400,000 soldiers, 100,000 civilians; USA, 290,000 soldiers.

Total killed (leaving out of account deaths indicated, such as Soviet civilians, but not given in figures): 39,840,000.

Guy Enock, in his book "This War Must-ness" (The Bodley Head), gives figures for Germany: military, 3,000,000; civilian, 800,000.

Briefly

GASTON COULY, a French conscientious objector, was sentenced, on May 3, to three years imprisonment. By September, 1957 he will have completed seven years imprisonment for being a conscientious objector to military service.

Last March, Gilbert Barbier, a French conscientious objector was sentenced to two years imprisonment for refusing military service. He had previously served a three year sentence.

John Ferguson, M.A., B.D., of the Fellowship of Reconciliation leaves on August 23 to take up duties as Professor of Classics at Ibadan University, Nigeria.

A nuclear reactor designed specifically for medical research and therapy, estimated at 6,000,000 dollars will be housed at Brookhaven National Laboratory, New York.

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As this is a free service, we reserve the right to select for publication notices sent in. We nevertheless desire to make it as complete a service as we reasonably can, and therefore urge organisers of events to:

1. Send notices to arrive not later than Monday morning.
2. Include: Date, TOWN, Time, Place (hall, street); nature of event; speakers, organisers (and secretary's address).

LEYTONSTONE: 8 p.m.; Friends Mtg. Ho., Bush Rd. Group let loose. PPU.

Friday, August 17

BELLINGHAM: 7.45 p.m.; 97 King Alfred Ave. Rev. Anthony Bailey, MA. "Colour Bar, Law and Religion in South Africa." Fellowship Party.

Thursday, August 23

LEYTONSTONE: 8 p.m.; Friends Mtg. Ho., Bush Rd. Howard Hutchins, "Rambles." PPU.

Thursday, August 30

LEYTONSTONE: 8 p.m.; Friends Mtg. Ho., Bush Rd. Group discussion. PPU.

Saturday, September 1

RUGBY: Pacifist Demonstration. PPU.

Saturday, September 15

LONDON, N.W.11: London Area Garden Party, King Alfred School, North End Rd. Peace Pledge Union.

Sunday, September 16

BELLINGHAM: 8 p.m.; St. Dunstan's Hall. Brains Trust on Peace and War. Rev. Anthony Bailey, MA (A.P.F.), Ronald Malton, BA (Fellowship Party) and others. Fellowship Party.

LONDON, W.C.2: 2.30 p.m.; Westminster Friends Mtg. Ho., 52 St. Martin's Lane. Charing Cross Rd. Conf. for prospective conscientious objectors. Speaker, discussion, tea. Society of Friends.

Saturday, October 6

CROYDON: 4.6 p.m.; Adult School Hall. Surrey Area Social. Children's Tea Party and Confiror. Stalls and evening entertainment. Peace Pledge Union.

Saturday, October 20

CAMBRIDGE: Pacifist Demonstration. PPU.

Saturday, October 27

LONDON, W.C.1: 6-9 p.m.; Friends International Centre, 32 Tavistock Sq. Meeting of Area and Group representatives. PPU.

Sunday, October 28

LONDON, W.C.1: 10 a.m.-12.30 p.m.; Friends International Centre, 32 Tavistock Sq. Meeting of Area and Group representatives. PPU.

Saturday, November 3

LONDON, W.1: Welsh Ho. Ch. Bazaar. Religion Commission, Peace Pledge Union.

Every week!

FRIDAYS

SHIPLEY: 7.15 p.m.; Shipley Group in new premises in Labour Party Rooms, Westgate, Shipley.

SATURDAYS

LIVERPOOL: 8 p.m.; Pier Head. Open-air Mtg. Liverpool and District Peace Board.

SATURDAYS AND SUNDAYS

LONDON: Weekend Workshops, cleaning and redecorating the homes of old-age pensioners. 19SP, 19 Pembroke Villas, W.11.

SUNDAYS

GLASGOW: Open-air mtg. Queens Pk. Glasgow Victoria Rd. 7.45 p.m.; Glasgow PPU.

WIDE PARK: 3 p.m.; Pacifist Youth Group. Every Sunday. PYAG.

TUESDAYS

MANCHESTER: 1.2 p.m.; Deansgate Blitz. Christian pacifist open-air mtg. Local pacifist ministers and others. MPF.

THURSDAYS

LEYTONSTONE: 8 p.m.; Friends Mtg. Ho., Bush Rd. 8.10 and 8.11 Group. PPU.

LONDON, W.C.1: 1.15-1.45 p.m.; Church St. George the Martyr, Queen St. Weekly Peace Service of Intercession for World Peace. Conducted by Clergy and laymen of various denominations.

LONDON, W.C.1: 7.30 p.m.; Dick Sheppards Ho., 6 Hindeley St. Pacifist Youth Group.

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SUEZ COMMENTARY

pacifist principles were applied today to other parts of Africa, no one would have to ask, when the storm breaks, what the pacifist would do if he were in power.

WITH regard to the present crisis, let us begin by listing some of the things which the pacifist would not have done.

He would not have spoken in abusive and threatening terms of an action which the slightest study of the facts shows to have been entirely legal in spite of its provocative abruptness.

He would not have blocked Egyptian funds or taken any other measures of such doubtful legality that they are reasonably certain to be condemned by the International Court at The Hague if they are submitted to it—and have not even secured the adhesion of the United States.

He would, of course, not have mobilised troops.

Nor would he have been so silly as to declare that neither France nor Britain will ever consent to single power control over the Suez Canal, since such a declaration implies that neither of them can have meant to respect the provisions of the original concession, under which single power control was to come to Egypt, anyway, by 1968.

On the positive side, he would have informed President Nasser in studiously polite language that the abrupt nationalisation of the Canal had created a serious situation calling for careful thought and study; and

that, until there had been an opportunity for full consideration and a series of mutual consultation meetings—however long they might take—all shipowners susceptible of accepting British or French advice would be urgently requested not to use the Canal.

During the first few days the effect would have been slight, because it is not always easy to divert ships. Nor would a complete boycott of the Suez waterway have resulted even after a while, or have been intended. But with tankers from the Middle East, going to various destinations in Western Europe, the United Kingdom and the United States, constituting 65 per cent of the total tonnage passing through the Canal (1955 figures), and Britain also the most extensive user of the Suez for other vessels, the new Nasser-created Canal Authority would not have been long in wanting to negotiate for the resumption of normal relations.

And this customers' abstention would have been morally justified and unassailable legal.

In the absence of long-term contracts, of which there are none in this case, there is no obligation on any customer to continue doing business with a concern which has suddenly come under new ownership.

The longer route round the Cape would admittedly be more expensive, but it is doubtful whether the expense involved would equal that of military measures already undertaken.

Next, the pacifist would have dissociated himself emphatically from the statement, in Paris on August 3, by the French Minister of Foreign Affairs that the future Canal profits must go to the users, in the form of reduced passage dues.

It runs counter to his sense of justice that so poor a country in natural resources as Egypt should not be allowed to divert to the improvement of her soil at least the same amount of the annual profits as the shareholders have taken in the past without the least worrying about possible reductions in the passage dues.

On the point that a conference has now been called, the pacifist comes near to the official policy adopted. But he would not have started by a preliminary one between the three Powers looked upon by Egypt with least favour.

Nor would he have announced that he expected this general conference to solve its fiercely contentious problems in a week.

And, to make it easier for Egypt to accept without feeling like an accused summoned to appear before a court, the pacifist would use every endeavour to induce Pandit Nehru or, failing him, some other prominent neutral, to become the convener of the conference—which should, moreover, be held in a neutral country, for preference at Geneva. Also, the conference should not set its face against the inclusion in the discussions of other internationally used canals, though keeping the Suez first on the list because it is only there that an acute issue has arisen.

HERE, however, I must interject a purely personal observation.

The question of international control over such waterways seems to me to be treated with far too much importance.

Egypt's barring of Israeli shipping is the only outstanding example of arbitrary action attributable to the absence of international control in times of peace, or at least undeclared war. If it amounted to more than pin-pricks, and had not been tacitly agreed to by more powerful countries, it would have been stopped.

And in times of war, as long as armed forces exist on the sea as well as on land, the freedom of any waterway will be real only for the nation of group of nations that possesses sufficient superiority in naval and air power to make it unwise for the other side to approach it. (As this is written, the latest reports from Cairo announce that Egypt is now permitting non-military cargoes bound for Israel to go through the Canal, to prove that the waterway is being kept entirely free).

Nor can I think that the United States will accept international control over the Panama Canal or think them wrong for that refusal, particularly when it is remembered that a belt of land ten miles in width on either side of the canal has become USA property by purchase.

THE crisis will last until long after this article has gone to press. But the United Kingdom has already lost the support of Iraq, its staunchest ally hitherto in the Middle East.

And Britain and France themselves are unwittingly driving a wedge into the Western front by exaggerating the importance of the Canal nationalisation in the hope of inflicting a resounding defeat on President Nasser for deeper-lying reasons.

The British Government wants his standing in the Arab world diminished before he can become a disruptor of British influence in the oil-rich Middle East; the French Government sees in the whole incident an opportunity to increase Western sympathy for her Algerian policy, in which Egypt stands as the focal point of external resistance; and the Americans want, above all, not to be drawn into adventurous action with a taint of colonialism in its content, particularly in a presidential election year.

One last thought: Is it not the height of irony that John Foster Dulles, looked upon for years as the chief practitioner of dangerous policies, should have become at least for the time being the main exponent of moderation?

Echoes of Imperialism

Apart from the dogmatic pacifists . . . there are a number (in the Labour Party) whose attitude is that, whatever our Canal policy, on no account should force be used to apply it. . . . The rider "unless such action is authorised by the United Nations" is empty . . . because any decision by the Security Council is subject to Russia's veto. . . . The object of the Conference on August 16 is to secure that the policy to be promoted is one . . . agreed by the greatest number; but its purpose will fail unless we, who are most concerned, are prepared to push its conclusion through by whatever forms of strength may be necessary.

—The Sunday Times, August 5, 1956.

THE fateful months of August and September, those two months when Members of Parliament have departed for their long summer recess, and large numbers of British citizens are taking their summer holiday, seem to be once again living up to their tradition of tension and threats of war.

This August of 1956, forty-two years since that fatal August of 1914, has treated us to unusually wild weather, and as though to keep in the same fashion, the lowering international skies shadow the world with the menace of war.

As the aircraft carriers, laden with paratroops, leave Portsmouth, as the recall papers to Reservists go out, as the ARP notices go up in the streets of Cairo, those who were so certain that the H-bomb would deter must now be a little less sure.

There is no certainty, there can be no certainty, so long as aggressive nationalism is met by aggressive nationalism.

It is not my purpose here to discuss the rights and wrongs of the present situation in regard to the Canal, since it is plain, and will be discussed elsewhere, that there are quite a few wrongs on both sides and perhaps not many "rights"!

TOM MBOYA TO TOUR USA

THE most outstanding African leader to emerge in East Africa since Jomo Kenyatta went to jail—26-year-old Tom Mboya, General Secretary of the Kenya Federation of Labour—is to visit the United States from August to October.

This announcement has just been made in New York by the American Committee on Africa, which is sponsoring his visit.

Son of a sisal plantation worker, and a member of the Luo tribe, Mr. Mboya has risen dramatically to prominence at a time when his country was torn by the stresses of Mau Mau uprising.

At a time when thousands of Africans—many of them trade unionists—were being arrested and imprisoned by the British, often merely for being under suspicion of not having the same ideas as the white settlers, Mr. Mboya succeeded in organising government workers into unions.

Still in his early twenties, he successfully negotiated the settlement of a strike which had tied up the port of Mombasa for three days, gaining substantial benefits for the strikers in the process.

Today he is General Secretary of the Kenya Federation of Labor, which is affiliated with the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions.

The American Committee on Africa, which is sponsoring Tom Mboya's six-week visit to America, was founded in 1954 and is located at 28 East 35th St., New York 16.

Colleges and organisations wishing to hear Mr. Mboya should make inquiries promptly.

George Houser, the Secretary of the American Committee on Africa, formerly worked with the US Fellowship of Reconciliation and the Congress of Racial Equality.

HIROSHIMA PARADE IN SOUTHEND

COMMEMORATING the Hiroshima anniversary, the Southend and District Peace Council will be holding a poster parade in Southend on August 11.

A section of the London Pipe Band will lead the parade.

Commencing from All Saints Church, Southchurch Road, at 3.30 p.m., the parade will march to the sea front via the High Street, where a meeting will be addressed by Sybil Morrison and the Rev. Dr. Bryn Thomas.

Southend Peace Council are being joined by contingents from Ilford, Woodford and Walthamstow.

Italian CO's third sentence

ENRIO ALFARANO, a Jehovah's Witness, who had served two previous terms of imprisonment for his conscientious objection to military service, was sentenced by the Turin Military Court on May 9, to a further 10 months imprisonment.

On arriving at the Recruit Training Centre last April, Alfaro refused to put on a uniform. This disobedience led to his appearance in Court. He was described by his Company Commandant as "a boy of good disposition, educated and civilly respectful."

What is equally plain is the fact that British people can still, in spite of their dread of war, be stirred by the "battle cry." Suddenly the Prime Minister takes on the stature of a Churchill; Gaitskell becomes the leader whose speech will undoubtedly ensure him a place in any War Cabinet, and Herbert Morrison, once a conscientious objector to war, declares that if a Tory Government reaches the conclusion that force is necessary he will support them.

As the echo of the cheers that greeted his speech from both sides of the House died away, was there, perhaps, a faint and far away echo of other speeches rolling from his lips against British Imperialism?

There is a strange and ghost-like resemblance to those Imperialistic days when Britain sent a gun-boat to frighten any recalcitrant peoples, and decided the differences in any dispute by a show of military power.

Whatever happens in this dispute, or any other, in the end the disputants must come together to negotiate, and yet the country cheers because Britain has continued in its outworn, bitterly mistaken tradition of "rattling the sabre."

The much scorned "dogmatic pacifist" is merely saying what everyone, in fact, knows to be true, that a display of force does not necessarily secure justice, and does not, inevitably, secure the desired end.

It is a piece of rather unscrupulous propaganda to refer to the Russian veto on the Security Council as though it were something used only by Russia; when the Security Council fails to agree, it could just as easily be called a USA or British veto, and probably is so called by Russia.

It was agreed, and rightly agreed, that decisions of the Security Council must be unanimous, and must not be carried out by a majority against a minority. Plainly this is a most proper and essential rule in a Council that has the power to make war, and one that had it been followed would perhaps have prevented the useless slaughter of the Korean War.

The United Nations, like the League of Nations, has failed to keep the peace in this instance, as in others, because of its reliance upon the ultimate use of the method of war.

It is to be hoped that all the disputants will come to the Conference on August 16, that concessions will be made, and common sense prevail.

MIXED MARRIAGE BAR IN RHODESIA . . .

From BASIL DELAINE, Blantyre, Nyasaland

A EUROPEAN man and an African woman in Lusaka (capital of Northern Rhodesia) who have been trying to get married, have been told that the law does not allow them to do so.

They have been refused marriage by the Anglican Church, the Dutch Reformed Church and the Clerk of the Court of Boma (similar to a Town Hall).

Even if the couple found a Church minister who would perform the ceremony, their marriage would not be recognised as legal and any children of the union would thus be illegitimate.

According to the Central African Post, the couple are "fed-up" and may leave Northern Rhodesia to get married.

The newspaper said that there was no precedent for a marriage between a European and an African in Northern Rhodesia.

The few "marriages" which have taken place—mainly between early European settlers, most of whom were civil servants—were under tribal law.

Even under tribal law, the children of such marriages are still regarded as illegitimate.

FOOTNOTE:—The Marriage Ordinance of Northern Rhodesia was drafted nearly 100 years ago in South Africa and does not permit marriage between Europeans and Africans.

The Anglican Church will not refuse to solemnize a marriage on the grounds of racial difference, a spokesman for the Commissary of the Bishop of Nyasaland told Peace News in London on Tuesday.

. . . AND IN KENYA

AN Englishman who wanted to marry a Kikuyu girl in Kenya has been forbidden to remain in Kenya, and may never see her again.

Mr. G. Dixon of Whitley Bay, Northumberland, was ordered to leave Kenya immediately by immigration officials, who refused to give reasons for the order.

Mr. Dixon met his fiancée, Margaret Munro, 20, during his Police service in Kenya's Central Province.

NO WAR OVER SUEZ

FROM PAGE ONE

French and US Governments to seek agreement regarding the future of the Suez Canal without delay by calling a conference of the states concerned with the use of the Canal, including the Soviet Union and Egypt.

The statement continues:

"While recognising that in view of the urgency of the situation and the need to secure the full representation of those chiefly concerned, it was probably necessary for the conference to be summoned on the initiative of the British, French and US Governments, the National Peace Council urges that the United Nations be kept fully informed, every effort be made to bring the decisions of the conference under the authority of the United Nations, and that no military action should be taken outside that authority."

"The National Peace Council, holding that it is essential that the Canal should be operated under some form of international agreement, believes that this issue should not be confused with the question of legal ownership."

PATRICK DUNCAN'S COMMENTS

A statement issued by the British Peace Committee, the British organisation of the Communist-backed World Peace Council declares that force or the threat of force to achieve national ends or to solve international problems cannot be justified.

"Under the United Nations Charter all countries are pledged to refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State."

"Warlike speeches in Parliament and the action of the British Government in recalling reservists, transferring bomber squadrons and military and naval units to the Mediterranean area are at complete variance with our obligations under the United Nations Charter and can only weaken our moral standing in the eyes of the whole world."

In a letter to The Times on August 6, Mr. Patrick Duncan, a South African contributor to Peace News, warns that a war with Egypt "would become the focus for all the aspirations of the new nations of the world now straining to establish their status."

He believed that Britain "would find no support anywhere save in France and perhaps in the United States. I believe that this country would, if it took up arms, fail to impose its will in Suez on Egyptian-directed Arabism. I believe that it would be a war as unpopular internationally as the Boer War, and as unsuccessful as the Crimean."

"Nasser has broken no law and abrogated no treaty. He already enjoys outspoken support in many countries. If a Suez 'Imperialism' grapples with 'Anti-colonialism' I have little doubt that 'Imperialism' will be defeated."

WAR OVER SUEZ?

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